

3.0 Common Data Elements

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3.1 Common Elements

In Chem eStandards v4.0, each element declaration and referenced type definition is expressed only once and referenced where used. The implication is that elements of the same name in Chem eStandards v4.0 are guaranteed to have the same structure specified in the schemas. (Note: Instance documents may have varied structures as needs dictate use or non-use of optional elements and choices made for mutually exclusive elements.)

Included among the many improvements in Chem eStandards v4.0 is a schema architecture that expresses “common” elements in a separate schema file. Specifically, CIDX-maintained code lists are expressed in one schema file per code lists. Each code list file is *included* (a W3C XML Schema mechanism) in a common components schema file. The common components schema file also contains element declarations and referenced type definitions for elements common to two or more messages. Finally, each message schema file *includes* the common components schema file. Each message file also contains element declaration and referenced type definitions for elements unique to the message.

The Chem eStandards v4.0 schema documentation lists parent elements and *used-by* messages for each element. As a result one can learn where elements are used.